



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

SIMONE MARSTILLER
SECRETARY

June 28, 2021

Simone Marstiller, Secretary
Agency for Health Care Administration
2727 Mahan Drive
Tallahassee, Florida 32308

Dear Secretary Marstiller:

In accordance with Internal Auditing Standards, attached is a status update from the Division of Medicaid, Bureau of Medicaid Fiscal Agent Operations in response to our audit report number *AHCA-1617-05-A, Provider Eligibility Enrollment Process*, published on June 21, 2019.

Management has indicated corrective action has been completed for all our report issues. A detailed description of all issues, recommendations, and management's responses can be found in the attached table.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Sheffield
Inspector General

MBS/md

Attachment

cc: Cody Farrill, Chief of Staff
Tiffany Vause, Deputy Chief of Staff
Thomas J. Wallace, Deputy Secretary, Division of Medicaid
Brian Meyer, Assistant Deputy Secretary, Division of Medicaid
Deborah Warfel, Bureau Chief, Bureau of Medicaid Fiscal Agent Operations



Agency for Health Care Administration
Office of Inspector General – Internal Audit
Report Title: Provider Eligibility Enrollment Process
Report #: AHCA-1617-05-A, issued June 21, 2019
Final Follow-up Status as of June 28, 2021

No.	Finding(s)	Recommendation(s)	Previous Management Response(s)	Status Update, Anticipated Completion Date and Contact
1.	The process for referring provider enrollment applications to Medicaid Fiscal Agent Operations (MFAO) for additional processing could be improved by reducing the type of applications requiring MFAO review.	1. Identify additional provider enrollment application review activities that could be transferred to the Fiscal Agent such as Provider Enrollment Chain and Ownership System (PECOS) verification and the process for reviewing work authorizations and legal residency.	<p><u>Status as of December 19, 2019</u> <i>Completed</i></p> <p>Implemented on September 1, 2019. MFAO sent revised Application Processing Instructions to DXC to reduce the number of applications being sent to MFAO for state review. These instructions included revisions for the following provider: pharmacy, early intervention services, and several different facility types.</p> <p><i>Contact(s): Debbie Warfel and Mike Bolin</i></p> <p><u>Status as of June 21, 2019</u> This recommendation will be reviewed and prioritized by the Provider Enrollment Process Team. This team has been tasked with identifying and initiating solutions that will streamline the provider enrollment process to more efficiently handle the growing volume of provider applications and improve provider satisfaction with the process. The team is also tasked with development of a standardized process for monitoring and reporting provider enrollment metrics by provider type.</p> <p>All team recommendations and deliverables will be reviewed and approved by the team sponsor and key stakeholders.</p> <p><i>Anticipated Completion: December 1, 2019</i></p>	Completed

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		<p>2. Adopt a formalized quality assurance process to ensure MFAO application reviews are conducted accurately, efficiently, and timely. This process should sample a portion of reviewed applications to ensure that Provider Enrollment analysts' reviews were conducted consistently and appropriately. This process could also help identify relevant standardized practices for analysts to use in their application review process and identify applications that may have unnecessary processing delays.</p>	<p><u>Status as of December 10, 2020</u> <i>In Progress</i></p> <p>Medicaid Provider Enrollment continues to follow the manual quality review process previously outlined. Automating this process has been delayed by the continuance of the COVID-19 Public Health State of Emergency. COVID related priorities such as provisional enrollment and the resumption of provider revalidation have taken Agency resources to implement.</p> <p>We anticipate completing this action within 6 months after the end of the Public Health Emergency. Anticipated Completion: July 31, 2021 Contact(s): Mike Bolin and Nick Constantino</p> <p><u>Status as of June 12, 2020</u> <i>In Progress</i></p> <p>The Provider Enrollment supervisor has continued to pull a list of open COs assigned to provider enrollment staff. The Provider Enrollment supervisor then disseminates the list of open COs based on ownership for the staff member to take appropriate action on (follow-up, closure, etc.).</p> <p>The final piece to this multi-step approach in adopting a formalized quality assurance process to ensure MFAO application reviews are conducted accurately, efficiently, and timely is the sampling and review of COs closed the previous week for quality.</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>We have determined that we can automate the process that selects random samples via a combination of a DSS report and a random number generator. Unfortunately, we have concluded that we cannot automate the actual review and verification portion. For example, we can take a random sample of each analysts' work via the automated process but because of the vast potential variety of tasks associated with each CO there is no way to automate a process to check if the request was both completed and accurate.</p> <p>The manual quality review process will continue.</p>

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			<p>This has been occurring informally on a regular basis. The ultimate goal however is to automate the CO selection portion of process so a random sample can be pulled. The eligible sample would consist of all the COs identified in the initial pull. And, after reviewing historical volumes, a yet to be determined percentage of COs would then be reviewed for quality. Additionally, a method to track both the initial CO pull as well as those selected for follow up quality review needs to be developed. Discussions revolving around the creation of this were halted by the recent covid-19 crisis, as priorities have temporarily shifted.</p> <p><i>Anticipated Completion: August 31, 2020</i> <i>Contact(s): Mike Bolin and Nick Constantino</i></p> <p><u>Status as of December 19, 2019</u> <i>In Progress</i></p> <p>Reviews of outstanding Change Orders (COs) have been initiated to identify and bring to conclusion COs that have been open for more than two months.</p> <p>In addition to the reviews of outstanding COs, the Provider Enrollment supervisor samples COs closed in the previous week for quality assurance purposes.</p> <p><i>Anticipated Completion: February 1, 2020</i> <i>Contact(s): Debbie Warfel and Mike Bolin</i></p>	

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			<p><u>Status as of June 21, 2019</u></p> <p>The provider enrollment supervisors will begin pulling weekly Change Order reports. The reports will list the COs that are completed, pending, and overdue.</p> <p>They will use these reports to determine if the analysts are completing the assigned COs in a timely manner.</p> <p>One of the enrollment analysts is currently monitoring the COs from DXC for accuracy of submissions to MFAO. Through this monitoring a Corrective Action Plan was requested from DXC, which resulted in errors dropping by 65% from February to May 2019.</p> <p>In addition, the Provider Enrollment Process team has appointed a sub-team to review the number of applications being sent to MFAO and make recommendations to reduce the number of applications coming to MFAO. The Provider Enrollment Process Team is being tasked with identifying and initiating solutions that will streamline the provider enrollment process to more efficiently handle the growing volume of provider applications and improve provider satisfaction with the process.</p> <p>The team is also tasked with development of a standardized process for monitoring and reporting provider enrollment metrics by provider type. All team recommendations and deliverables will be reviewed and approved by the team sponsor and key stakeholders.</p>	

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2.	Efficiencies could be improved by requiring Provider Eligibility and Compliance Unit (PECU) review for Targeted Case Management applications prior to scheduling site visits.	For Targeted Case Management provider applications referred to PECU for further processing, consider conducting site visits after PECU review to increase efficiency and reduce unnecessary site visits for applications with high denial rates and other concerns.	<p><u>Status as of December 19, 2019</u> <i>Completed</i></p> <p>The improved process for scheduling Targeted Case Management provider applications site visits after the PECU review was implemented on September 30, 2019.</p> <p>New instructions were created for DXC, MFAO and RPA staff.</p> <p><i>Contact(s): Debbie Warfel</i></p> <p><u>Status as of June 21, 2019</u> MFAO agrees with this recommendation and will start the operational changes for DXC, MFAO, and the Bureau of Recipient and Provider Assistance staff to have this process in place by August 1, 2019.</p> <p><i>Anticipated Completion: December 1, 2019</i></p>	Completed